

## Completed Pollution Prevention Project Case Study

United States Department of Energy  
Office of Environmental Management  
Fact Sheet

### **You've Got Recyclable Mail**

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**

#### Original Problem

The Los Alamos National Laboratory is trying to significantly reduce its volume of sanitary waste to comply with DOE goals. A system was already in place to recycle white copier paper, but there was a large amount of paper going into the trash that could not be recycled with the white paper stream.

#### The Project Solution

The MSA1000 program allows employees to recycle colored paper, magazines, junk mail, phone books, used toner cartridges, old transparencies, and binders. The MSA1000 material is gathered in the mailroom of every building, and the mail carriers collect this material when they deliver the mail. The MSA1000 material is sorted back at the mail center. Moving boxes can also be treated as MSA1000 material and either reused or recycled depending on the condition of the particular box. About 300 moving boxes are reused each week.

#### Value of Improvement

The mixed paper is baled and sold to recyclers, the used toner cartridges are returned to the manufacturers for refilling, the old transparencies are sent to 3M for recycling, and the binders are donated to local schools. Participation in the program has been increasing every year. In 2002 about 120 metric tons of materials were recycled. The associated cost savings are about \$120,000 annually.

#### Lifecycle Waste Reduction

Lifecycle Waste Reduction	~120 metric tons /year
Commencement Date	1998
Project Useful Life (Years)	Indefinite



#### DOE Monetary Benefits

Total Project Cost	NA
Lifecycle Savings	~\$120,000 / year
Return on Investment	NA

#### Benefits At-A-Glance

- About 120 metric tons of mixed office waste is recycled annually instead of being treated as sanitary waste.
- Approximately \$120,000 is saved every year in landfill fees.
- Toner cartridges, moving boxes, and binders are reused.

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	<b>Summary Data</b>
Priority Area:	Waste Minimization Projects
Project Type:	Process Improvement
Total Project Cost:	NA
Lifecycle Savings:	~\$120,000 per year
Implementing Group:	Materials Management Group
Benefiting Group:	All
Useful Life Years:	Indefinite
Return on Investment:	NA
Lifecycle Waste Reduction:	~120 metric tons annually
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